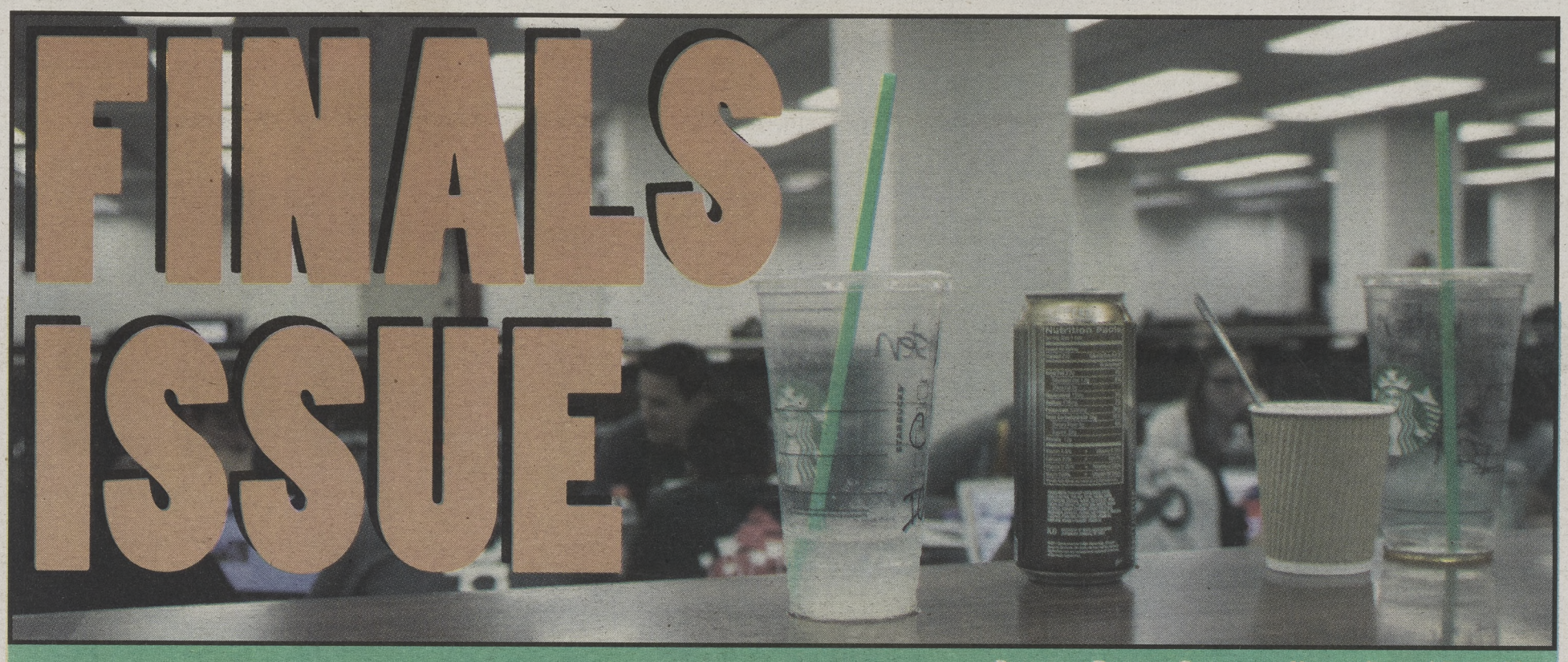
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DAILY 49ER

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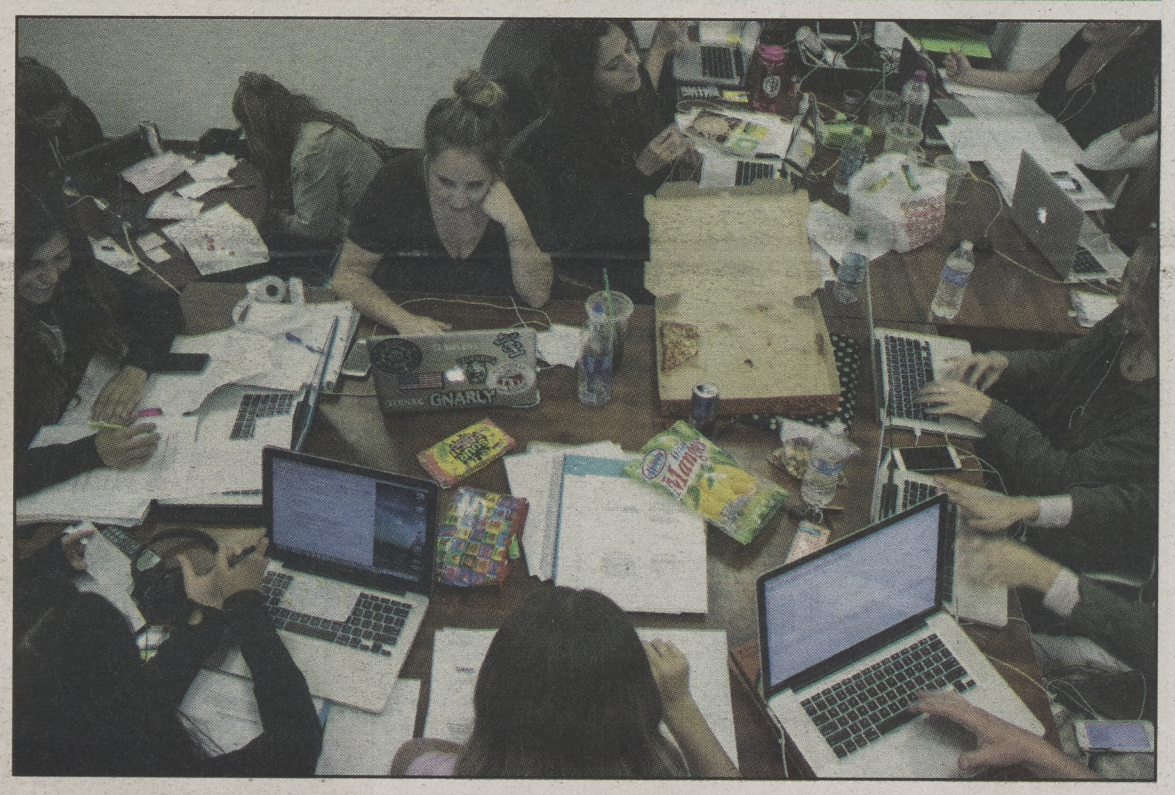
FINALS ISSUE



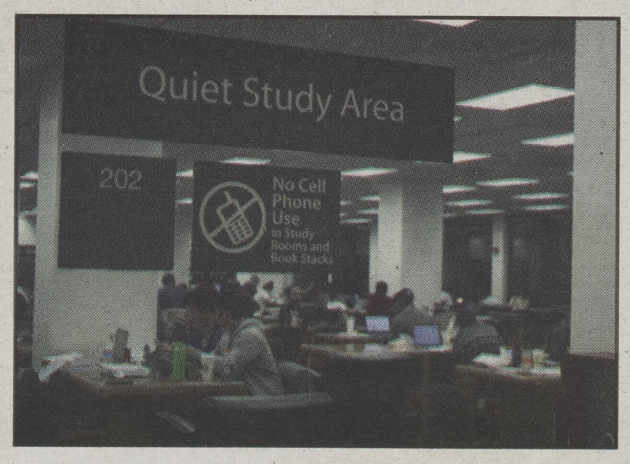
PHOTOS BY DANIELLE CARSON AND VIVIANA RAMOS | DAILY 49ER

When the clock strikes midnight on Monday, the library courtyard is still a throng of students smoking and laughing. The party grows as it climbs from the basement to the fifth floor, where all seats are taken and tables are cluttered with a semesters' worth of procrastination, stacks of pizza boxes and retired coffee cups.









In this special issue, the Daily 49er explains why finals are jammed into a single week, questions why they exist at all and offers tips to cope.

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Final exam schedule ups and downs

With the close of each semester, students have one week of final exams before their break begins but it varies from a full week to split-week.

By Rhiannon Williams
Contributing Writer

Finals begin Monday. Wondering why finals schedules switch between full-week and split-week, the Daily 49er asked Michael Blazey, the interim director of academic facilities, a few questions about the creation of final exam schedules as well as the importance of having one week dedicated to exams.

Q: Why is the schedule different from other semesters?

A: "Because of the Veterans Day holiday and the need to get the right number of days of instruction for each of the days, it means that finals may be scheduled over two weeks. We don't generally have that problem in the spring because we don't have the Veteran's Day holiday to contend with, and so it's a lot easier to get finals in a complete week, Monday through Saturday, rather than having to split the finals week across two calendar weeks."

Q: Who comes up with the final exam schedule?

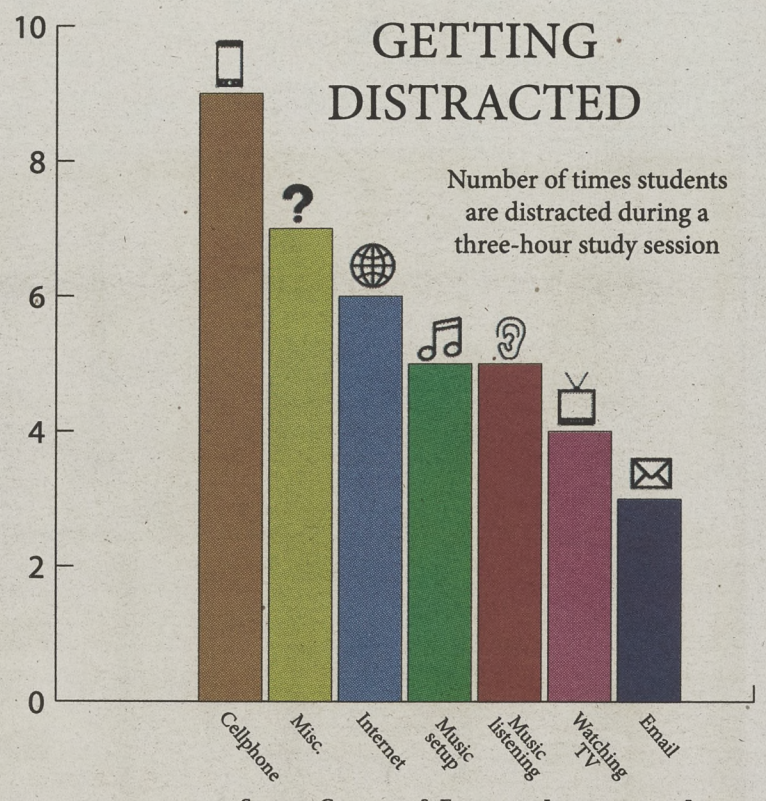
A: "The Academic Calendar Committee is in charge of figuring out the best way to put together the calendar for each semester's schedule. There are all kinds of variables like the Veterans Day holiday and making sure we have an equal number of instructional days for each semester that will…determine if finals week will be split into two calendar weeks or not. Academic Scheduling tries as much as possible to make sure that no two class periods are scheduled at the same time for exams… It's really important for academic scheduling to look across the entire schedule of courses for a semester and make sure that no two class periods conflict."

Q: Why is there a final exam schedule? Why not let students take their final exams during regular class periods like midterms?

A: "Finals have always been traditionally scheduled during a separate week to give everybody closure to the semester and because letting it happen according to the last day of classes students might get into the situation where they would have a lot of finals just in one day."

Q: How does that benefit students?

A: "I think it's really a benefit to the students not to get hit with a real crush of finals and projects and everything else on the last day of class."



Source: Computer & Education International Journal
Illustration by Amy Patton

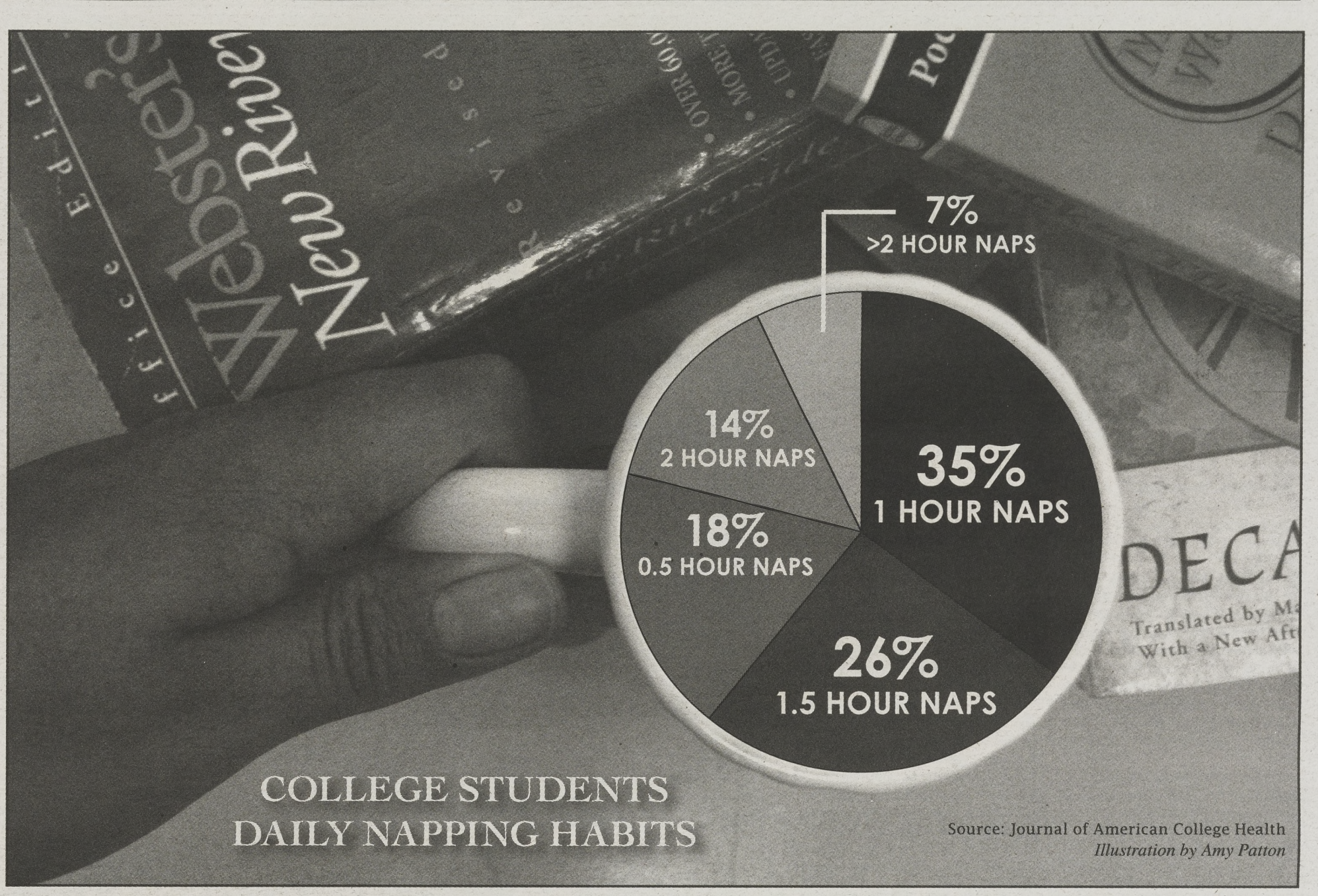
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1 – 3 p.m. **Selfie photo booth** USU, Floor 2 *5:30 – 7:30 p.m.* **Balloon Monsoon** Student Recreation and Wellness Center	*noon – 2 p.m.* **Tote bag decorating** USU, Floor 2 *3 – 5 p.m* **Caricature drawings** USU, Floor 2	*10 a.m. – noon* **Henna** USU, Floor 2 *3 – 5 p.m.* **Button making** USU, Floor 2	*noon – 3 p.m.* **Cup decorating** USU, Floor 2 *3 p.m. – 6 p.m.* **Massages** USU, Floor 2	*10 a.m. – 1 p.m.* **Basketball** Pyramid

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Library offers asylum to finals week refugees

But students should leave their camping gear behind.

BY KEVIN FLORES
Assistant Diversions Editor

The dread has begun to creep in like ivy as finals draw near, and grades hang perilously in the balance.

It's in these tense, uncertain times that red-eyed and bedraggled students are prone to strange and sometimes downright grotty behavior as they swarm the hive of activity during the semester's end—the library.

"No electrical appliances, no shopping carts and no camping or squatting" are some of the rules listed at the entrance of every floor of California State University, Long Beach's library.

"If it is listed on there, it has been done in the past," library staff member Austin Lenzen said.

Camping?

Yes, in years past students have camped out in the library, Reserve, Media and Periodicals librarian Sandra Raquel said. "They bring sleeping bags, pillows—they've even made tents."

That's because staking out a spot in the library is serious business during finals week.

"My best friend and her classmates are all science majors, and they set up base in the basement," senior English major Araceli Funes said. "They take turns napping under the tables and alternate when they go to class."

Scout Sable, who is part of Red Bull's field marketing team, and her co-worker Vianey Torres, a senior sociology major, will be doing their best to keep weary-eyed students from drowsing off. Throughout finals week, the pair will be walking around the library with Red Bull coolers strapped to their backs, handing out free energy drinks.

"I haven't seen anything too crazy so far, just people sleeping at their desk mostly," Sable said. "If we see that, we just leave a can for them near their head so it's there when they wake up."

Lenzen said that he heard students made a castle out of the empty aluminum cans a few semesters ago. "Anything not to study, basically."

The combination of sleep-deprivation, frayed nerves and caffeine might be the reason for the shenanigans that take place in the bizarre, fluorescently lit world of afterhours study sessions.

Youtube videos from the past have documented instances of pajama-clad students breaking out in dance among tables stock full of coffee cups, junk food, crumpled paper and books at CSULB.

"It can be interesting," Victor Velasco, an engineering major who staffs the help desk in the Spidell Center on the library's first floor, said.

He recalls one occasion when students got into a fight over the free coffee the library serves at night during finals week. Though the biggest problem, he said, is people sprawling out in sleeping bags and taking up too much space.

To keep disruptions to a minimum and to make sure nobody's completely moved into the library, the staff walks around periodically to keep the facility comfortable and true to its purpose.

Other rules on the sign include: "No moving of furniture that is bolted or restrained and no blocking aisles, pathways or doors."

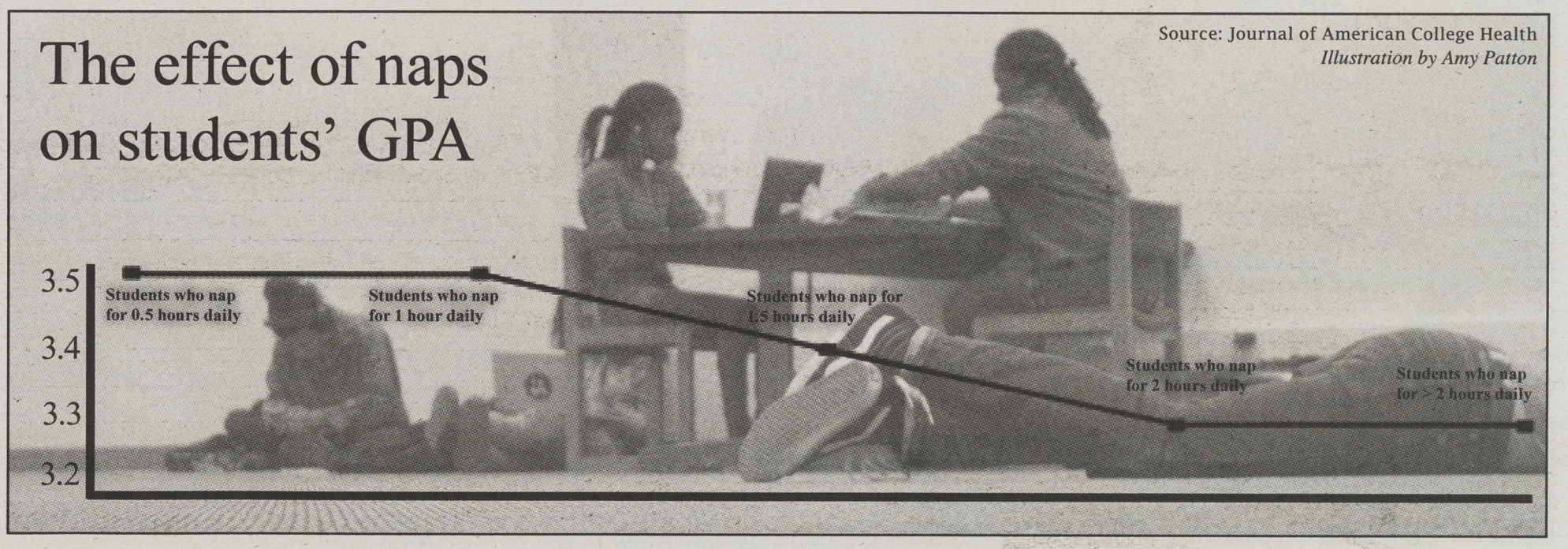
Unbolted furniture is fair game, however. Sunday morning, one student pulled together two leather armchairs into a makeshift bed in the library's fifth floor. Monique Wood, a junior nursing student who was studying for finals, found it amusing and took a photo with her phone.

"He was just hanging out," she said with a giggle.

The library will be open 24 hours per day through Friday at 5 p.m. to accommodate students as procrastinating begins to give way to frantic cramming— and compulsive napping.

Although the library has prohibited students from setting up forts and shantytowns, sleeping is not against the rules.

"We're open for study," Raquel said. "But if they are sleeping, we're not going to bug them about it."



Bike to fight cancer

Bike race draws thousands of bikers to support pediatric cancer research and raise around money children's hospital.

By Rhiannon Williams
Contributing Writer

Childhood cancers make up less than 1 percent of all cancers diagnosed each year, yet over 10,000 children in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer in 2015, according to the American Cancer Society.

The Tour of Long Beach on Saturday helped raise funding for research on pediatric cancer at the Jonathan Jacques Children's Cancer Center at Miller Children's Hospital.

"People are out here riding, raising money and supporting something locally that's going to have a national effect," said Renae Furlow, the marketing manager at the Johnathan Jacques Cancer Center. "We really want to let people know that it's not a faceless cause and that people can do something, and by getting on your bike, and being healthy and giving yourself up actually helps other people and has a ripple effect."

The event raised about $350,000 in donations, adding to the $1.2 million it has raised in six years as thousands of people competed in different races and enjoyed the post-race festival.

JJCCC provides care for children of all ages, from infants to young adults, who suffer from cancer, sickle cell disease, hemophilia or other serious blood disorders. Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach provides hematology and oncology care, and treatment for more than 800 children each year, according to Tour of Long Beach.

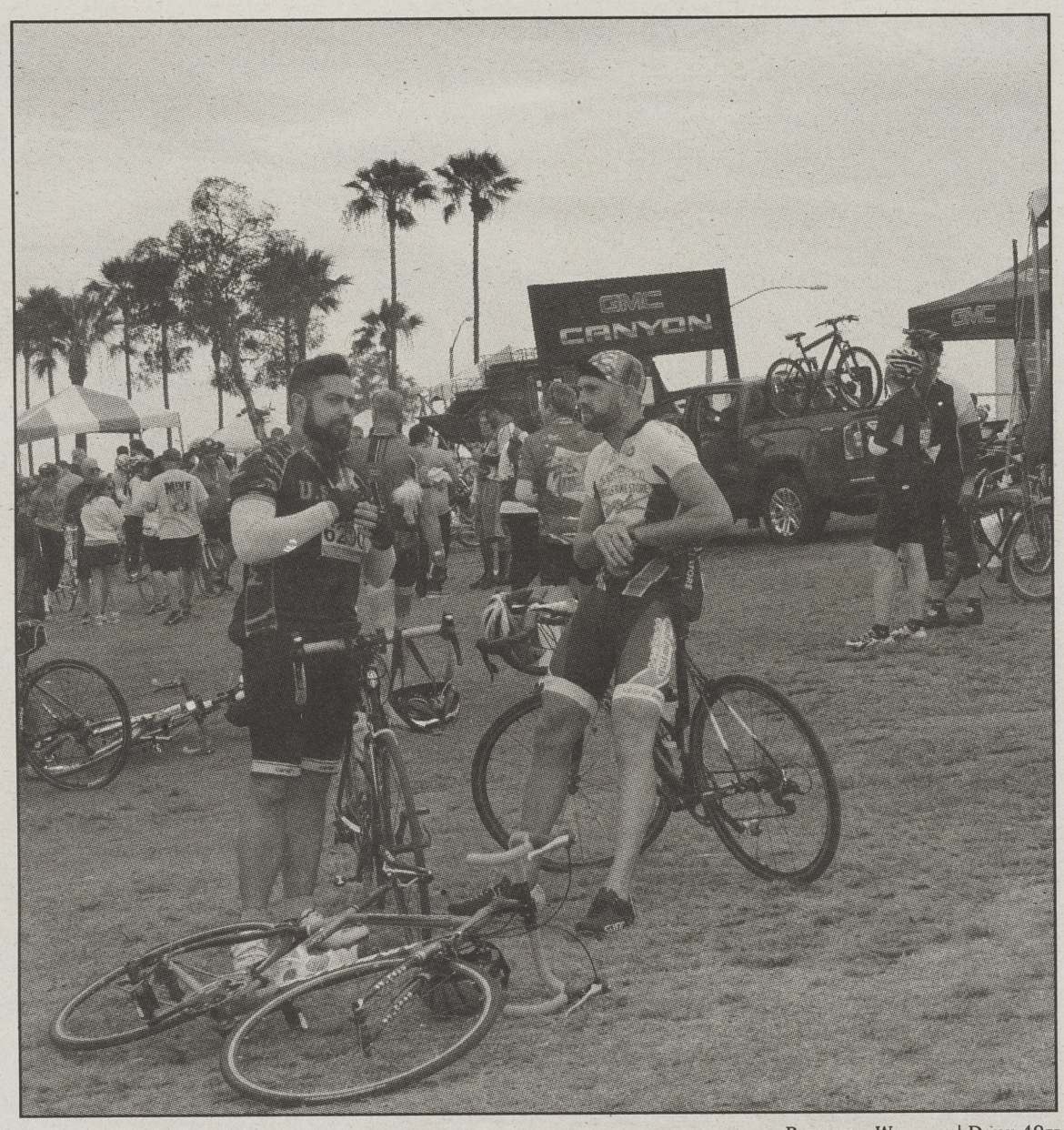
"When it comes down to it, f-ck cancer," said 30-year-old Zack Walters, who cycled a 62 mile stretch to Newport Beach with his brother Daniel. "Anything that we can do --my sister has breast cancer, but we all have grandparents, family members, that have died from it-- so anything we can do to penetrate whatever bubble we need to penetrate to get them to find a cure, let's do it."

This event was the first Tour of Long Beach race where event-goers were given the opportunity to create personalized messages for the 20 juvenile hospital patients.

"We try to make it personal to where it's not just a cause, but these are actual faces so…you can leave notes for the patients at the hospital that will be delivered to their rooms next week to show that the community cares," Furlow said.

The event, which partnered with the city of Long Beach highlighted the bike-friendly infrastructure that the city has to offer and made use of its many bike paths and lanes.

Four races were featured during the day: the Cruz Gran Fondo race, which covered a 100 mile stretch from Long Beach to Laguna Beach and back; the Metric Century course, which ran for 60 miles from Long Beach to Newport Beach and back; the Tour of Long Beach, which coursed through Long Beach and Bixby Knolls for 30 miles using the city's bike lanes and paths, and finally the five mile Family Ride.



Rhiannon Williams | Daily 49er

The Tour of Long Beach raised about $350,000 for the Jonathan Jacques Children's Cancer Center at Miller Children's Hospital on Saturday.

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* Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE) 2014 Indicators

Lights, camera, fashion!

Winner of best collection, Jaclyn Mach will showcase her "Armored" collection at Los Angeles Fashion Week in October.

By Stephanie Thai
Assistant Video Producer

With more than 800 people in attendance, Jacyln Mach had all eyes on her as she won "Best Collection" at the 27th annual Campus Couture.

The fashion department's student-run fashion show took place on Friday at California State University, Long Beach's Carpenter Center.

"I've been preparing for a long time," Mach, a senior fashion design major at CSULB, said. "When I thought about my collection, the first thing I thought about was using my fashion as communication and designing with a purpose; that was important to me."

Simplistic yet edgy, Mach's "Armored" collection won her a spot in the Art Hearts Fashion show during Los Angeles Fashion Week in October. Her pieces were inspired by the hatred of seeing those close to here in pain as well as the embodiment of the quote, "In weakness, you are made strong."

"People would come to me and consult me," Mach said. "The only thing they always admit is 'I don't know why I'm feeling this way." There's a lot of shame in feeling weak. I made clothes inspired by armor to help empower people and encourage them that it's okay to feel this way."

Spectator and local resident of San Diego, Denisha Gilbert talked about how "grand" the fashion show was from the audiences' perspective as well as the surplus of press who gave all sorts of attention to the student designers.

Jasmin Garcia, a senior fashion merchandising major and interim coordinator of Campus Couture, noted that the year-long process challenges the participants to go beyond their comfort zone.

"First they're projects and then they're shown. If [the designers] didn't get a good grade or didn't turn it in, then it can't be shown," Garcia said. "They have to be students first before they can be designers."

The panel of judges was comprised of Charlene Pack, a merchandise design director for Dolls Kill, Sarah and Erin Whitaker of Parker Whitaker Production and CSULB alumni Walter Mendez of the Walter Collection.

"It's important we bring judges here that are willing to give gifts, such as showing at LA fashion week," Garcia said. "It's like a foot in the door–no, basically IN [the fashion industry] after something like that."

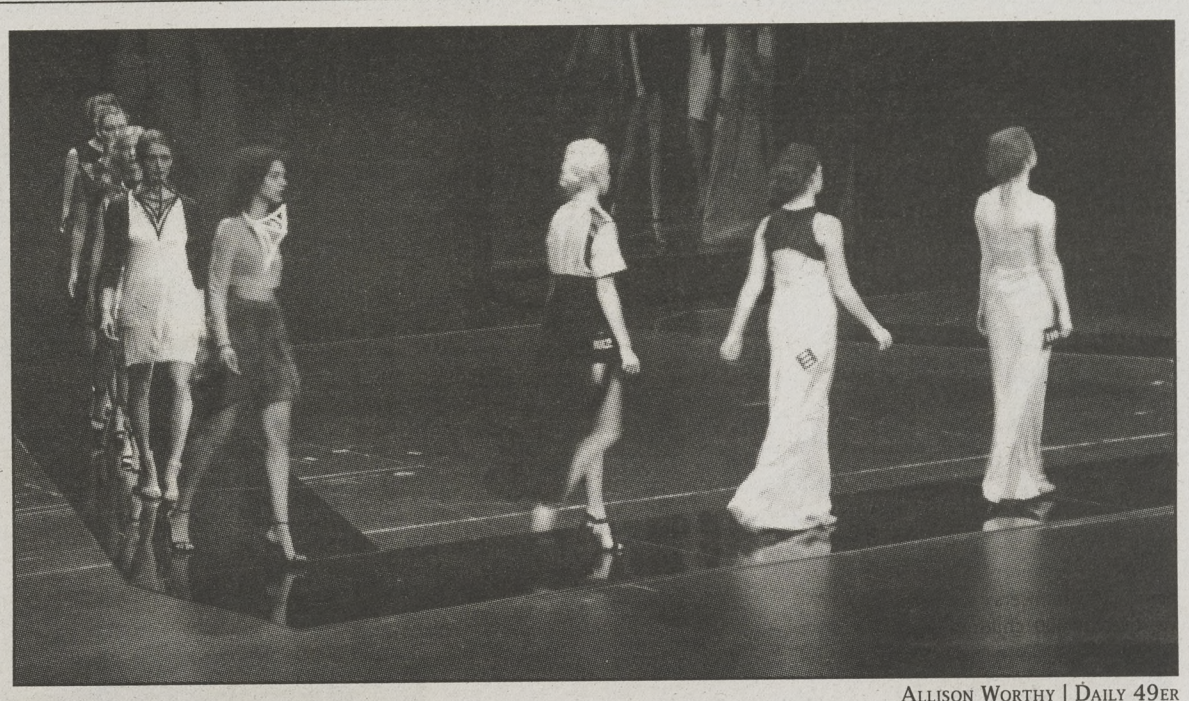
In order to convey her theme of armor, Mach utilized materials easy to replicate the metal-bodice structures.

"For example, the corset piece was not simply a corset. I had placed a haltered piece over the chest area and used piping to create style lines," Mach said. "[This] helps create structure in something that is soft in design and shields the body."

Mach's mother passed on the needle and thread to her daughter in high school. Mach designed her own prom dress, which she claimed was a "disaster" but a lesson well learned.

Mach has worked for a variety of different companies such as Elev8, Kellwood, Vivan Chan, BCBG. She's a part-time design assistant at Woodruff Apparel, an online women's clothing store, and helping a friend launch Braver, an active sportswear brand.

"Up until now, I thought I was going to work quietly in a corporate office job," Mach said. "But now this changes a lot."



Allison Worthy | Daily 49er
Models showcase Jacelyn Mach's "Armored" collection at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center on Friday.

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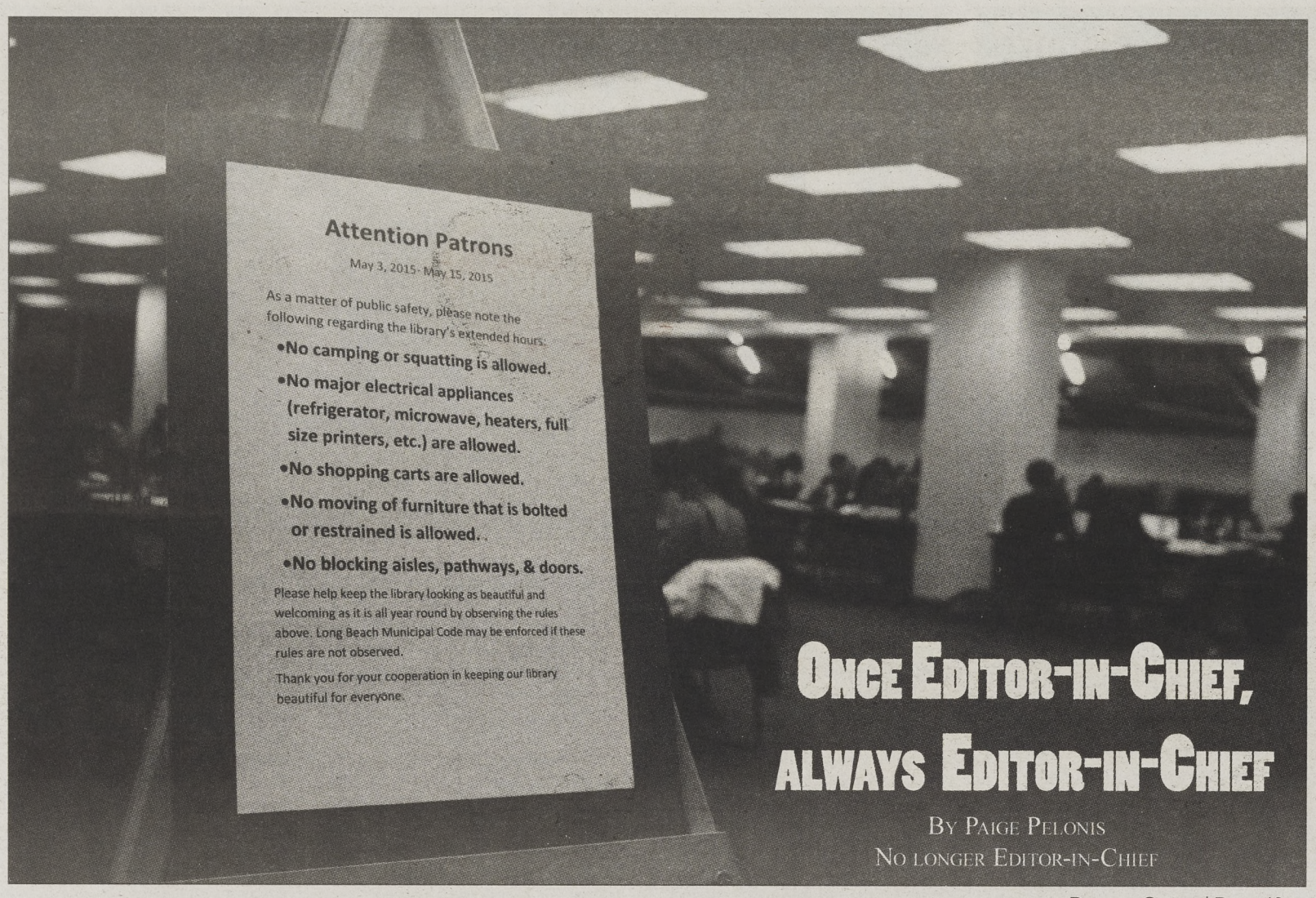
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Once Editor-in-Chief, always Editor-in-Chief

By Paige Pelonis
No longer Editor-in-Chief

Danielle Carson | Daily 49er

It's Sunday. Finals begin tomorrow. The library is filled from bottom to top with the crazies who will buy too much pizza, drink too much coffee, skip too much sleep and maybe study a little.

Where am I? Like any dedicated Editor-in-Chief at a student newspaper, I'm sitting on the floor of the library with the managing editor who holds a camera. We are in search of photos for our front page.

We climb the stairs from the basement to the fifth story together, stopping to sip our own coffees and take some pictures at each floor.

Check out the front page — when midnight rolled around, we wondered what you'd think of our efforts.

After one long year, Sunday night marked my last night as Editor-in-Chief of the Daily 49er. After three years of commitment to our campus newspaper, Sunday night marked Print Manager Danielle Carson's last night on staff.

Some endings are bitter, some are sweet, some are, of course, bittersweet. This one is none of those things. It feels odd and kind of unreal, but satisfying.

We've done some exciting things this year at the Daily 49er ...

A year ago, the hottest days of the summer were the 10-hour Wednesdays spent trapped in the sentimental basement that housed the cozy newsroom. Once a week, and for no pay, a handful of journalists gathered with me to piece together gradual success. By the end of that summer, the outdated www.daily49er.com came to life with blacks and golds and headlines that pop and more videos than ever before. Little did we know that the news hub we had fashioned would earn first place in the Associated Collegiate Press awards for a website at a large school.

What felt like summer-time play collided with the drain of the fall semester, and we all felt it. Staff members stressed, cried and some even quit — who knew one day I'd call those months of no sleep and too much coffee successful. But an honorable mention from this year's California College Media Awards for best overall newspaper design and best overall newspaper ain't too shabby.

The chaos of fall faded as the print-mindedness that pervaded the old newsroom finally molded into convergence. We moved up in the campus world into a high-tech newsroom that allows us to suit up twice per week and shoot a video news program that airs in the community via PADnet and plays on our website. Everyday, we wake up to greet the sunrise with the morning radio news program that plays as a podcast online.

Students from five different course sections in the department now come in to work with us, learn from us and tell stories for us. Students from all over campus request workshops with us and join our rank. We are growing, we are improving and we are thriving at the Daily 49er ...

Carson is one of many members of the 2014-15 Daily 49er team who has contributed countless hours of writing, editing, designing and carrying the newspaper into an entirely new era.

I'm honored and priveleged to look back on my senior year at CSULB and ONLY see the newsroom. Thanks to my advisors, my family, my staff and my best friend, Danielle Carson, I made it through in one piece!

Here's to Greg Diaz, the fool who will replace me in the year to come — good luck ... the private office is a great place for a nap, just remember to lock the door.

#49erNow

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1. Wild Nothing "Live in Dreams"
2. Catherine Wheel "The Nude"
3. Jesus and Mary Chain "Just Like Honey"
4. My Bloody Valentine "Loveless"
5. Morrissey "Jack the Ripper"
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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

DE-STRESSING FINALS WEEK DISTRESS

As time winds down and exams and due dates clutter the mind, it is important to take some personal time to de-stress and be more efficient.

BY ALEXANDRA HUYNH
Contributing Writer

It's week 15 of the semester—finals week is here, and procrastination has been the malicious culprit responsible for triggering last minute essays and projects.

Breathing exercises are no longer a viable solution to stress, and diets of high protein nuts, fruits and omega-3 fatty acids have fallen short of stress relief promises. However, it is crucial during this period to take a deep breath and designate some personal time to relaxing and reducing stress in order to maximize studying productivity.

1. GRAB A DRINK:



The ancient Greeks have long associated alcoholic beverages with leisure and relaxation. The Greek lyric poet Alcaeus once wrote, "We must not let our spirits give way to grief … Best of all defenses is to mix plenty of wine, and drink it." A study by Michael A. Sayette, a professor in the department of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh shows that alcohol consumption can result in a stress-response-dampening effect. In other words, moderate doses of alcohol can reduce the body's physiological stress response in certain situations and help with winding down.



2. STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES:

Whether it is walking the dog through the park or strolling the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, nature-oriented activities have been proven to decrease burn-out scores and long-term sick leaves while also increasing work ability, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information. So in between those endless study sessions, step outside for bit and let the rejuvenation sink in in order to maximize cramming later on.



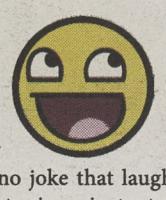
3. GET IN TOUCH:

The language of compassion and love can do wonders to assuage headaches and heal the soul. Nonhuman primates spend about 10-20 percent of their waking day grooming each other. Research by Dacher Keltner, a psychology professor at the University of California, Berkeley shows that touch activates the brain's orbitofrontal cortex, which signals safety and trust. In other words, hugging a friend, holding hands, stroking a pet or getting a massage are different activities than can be done to activate the body's vagus nerve and calm cardiovascular stress.



4. SAY A LITTLE PRAYER:

Whether taken figuratively or explicitly, studies by the National Center for Biotechnology Information have shown that the miraculous effects of "divine intervention" can be tied to a placebo response, reducing numerous disorders tied to stress including anxiety and depression. Prayer, also known as spiritual meditation, has been found to be superior to secular meditation in terms of reducing heart-rate and improving positive mood and self-esteem.



5. TICKLE YOUR FANCY:

It's no joke that laughter is the best medicine. As comedian Milton Berle once said, "Laughter is an instant vacation." A study by the American Journal of Medical Sciences found that mirthful laughter could produce biochemical changes that reverse the neuroendocrine and classical stress hormone response. Laughter is a contagious bug that increases health, happiness and diminishes pain and stress from every life. Find whatever it is that cracks you up, surround yourself with humorists and let the good times roll until the tears come streaming down.

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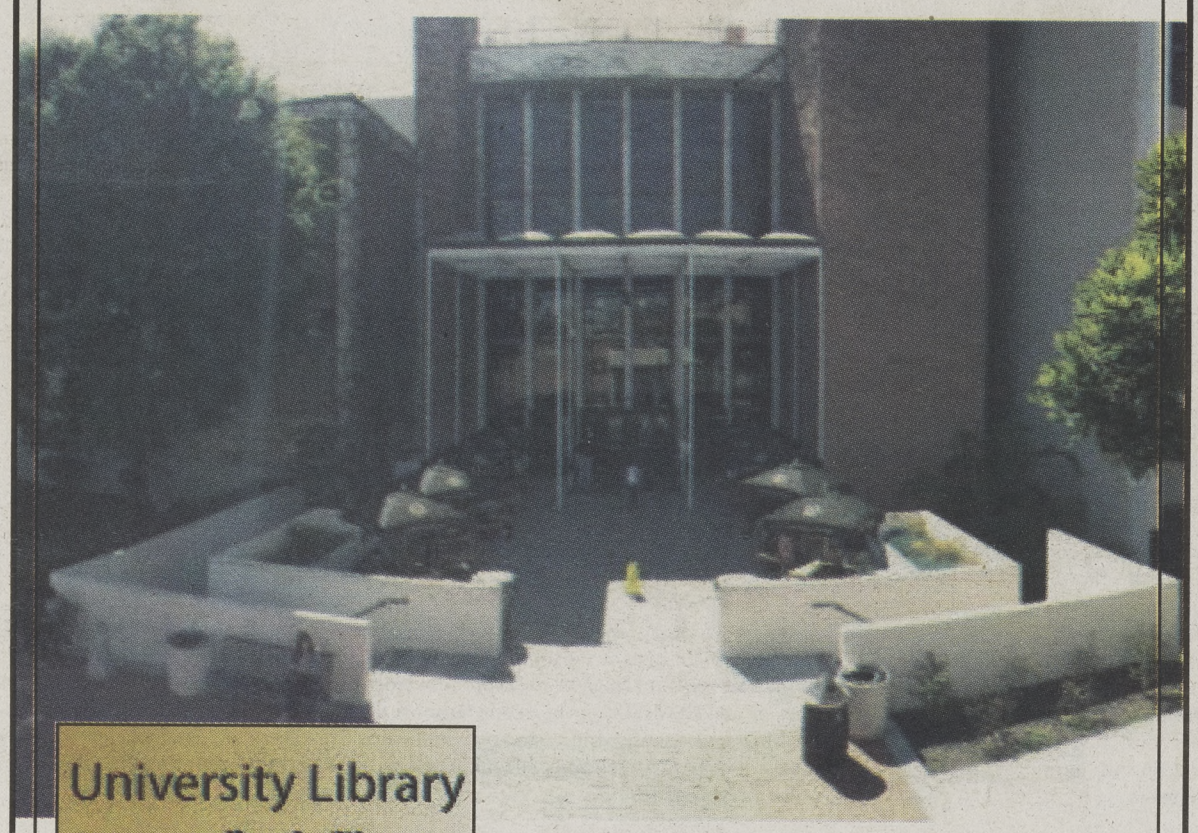
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It's time to finish finals

BRANDEN RAULSTON
Contributing Writer

Eyes burn red, hands quiver and heads nod as a combination of eyestrain, stimulant abuse and sleep deprivation sweep across the student population preparing for a week jam-packed with tests.

Final exams are stressful and ineffective tools for student learning. It is time for the educational system to evolve and move away from tests that have been used since the mid-1800s.

End of term tests are not the best option for student evaluation or mental health.

When a student graduates and goes on to start a career, he or she is sure to come across challenges at work. One day the boss will come to him or her with a problem to fix. In that situation, will there be a 100 question multiple-choice test?

Of course these future employees will not be handed tests. They will be given real-life problems that require experience and critical thinking skills, not the regurgitation of countless PowerPoint slides of information.

Since this is the case, tests should not make or break a student's success.

Besides testing's irrelevance to future work demands, they also contribute to the ever-rising stress of college students. According to a 2014 National Survey of College Counseling Centers, 52 percent of students seeking help had severe psychological problems -- up 14.6 percent from 2012.

The rise of stress and mental health issues comes at the expense of learning. According to a 2008 study by Dr. Tallie Z. Baram, both long-term and short-term stress impairs cell communication in the regions of the brain involved in learning and memory.

If stress is associated with lowered learning and memory capacity, then the most crucial part of a student's grade should not be the most stressful.

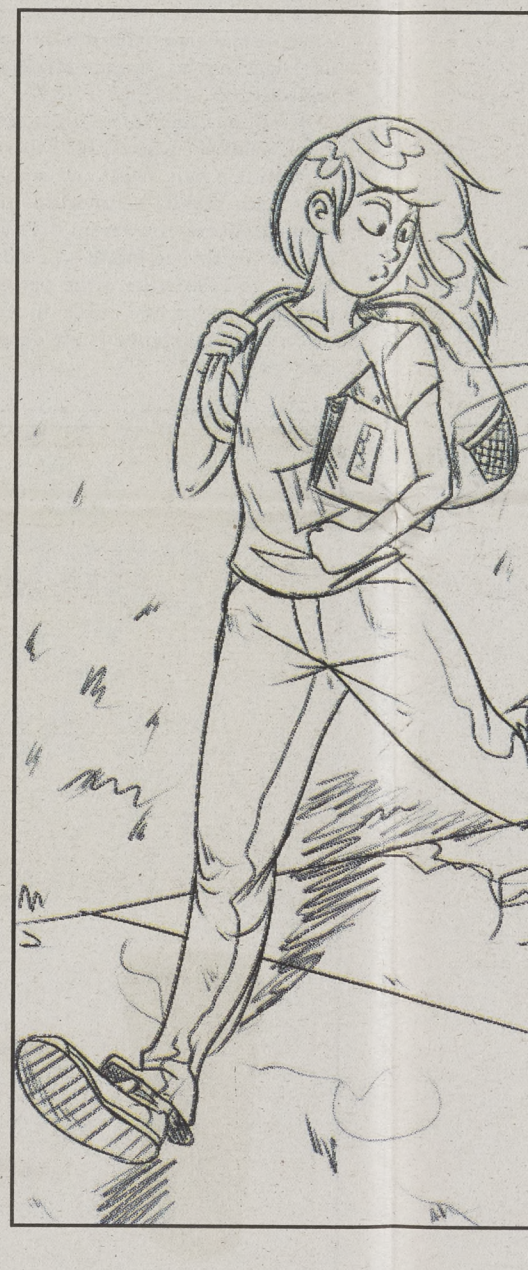
Educators need to take these factors into account when planning coursework. Professors do not need to completely eliminate semester-end tests, but some of its point value should be distributed among more engaging assignments like essays, projects and presentations that require critical thinking and research and provide real-world experience.

Though it may seem counter-intuitive, more frequent testing is better for students than large midterms and finals. Administering quizzes at the start of each class increases overall performance and attendance compared to classes that only have a few large tests, according to a study by the University of Texas.

Technology in the 21st century allows educators to perform such frequent quizzing or similar forms of improved evaluation, but still these techniques are largely underused. Instead, many students continue to find themselves frantically scribbling notes by the light of a projector for fear of missing a single factoid for the exam while they miss out on the lecture and the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion.

Leading educational institutions like Harvard have already moved away from the use of large exams, and it is time other schools follow suit.

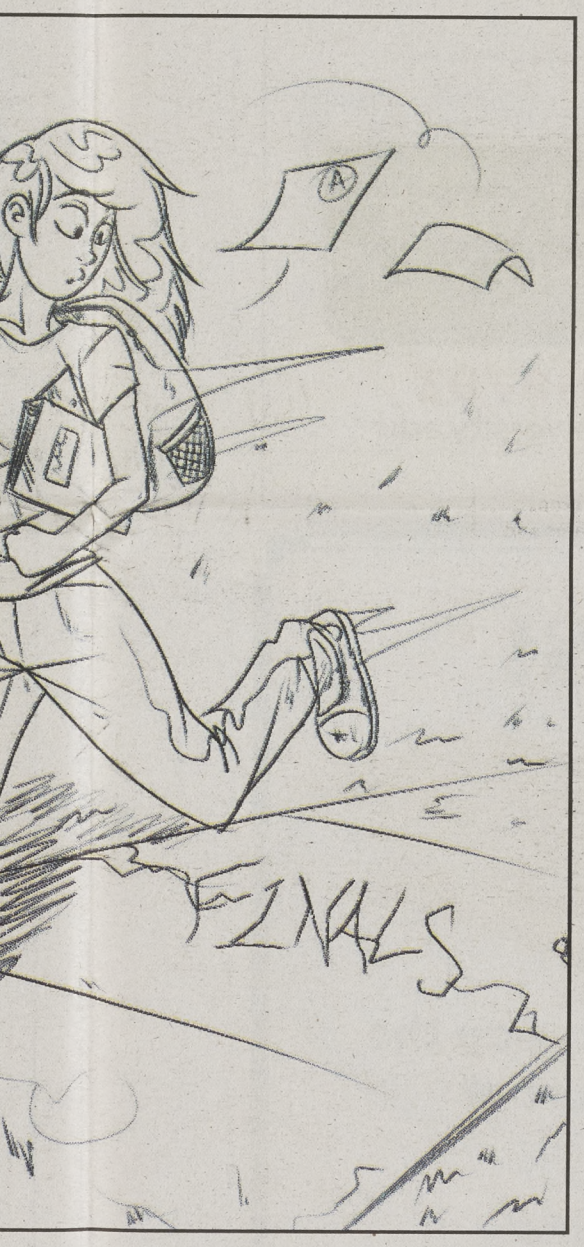
With tuition increasing every year, surely the resources are available for every college to begin implementing new techniques that take into account both student achievement and mental health.



Dressing for comfort trumps dressing to impress

ROBERT GUERRERO
Contributing Writer

It's a day that all college students anxiously await. A day filled with celebration for students because they have completed their higher education. This day is simply known as graduation, but for some students, it's more like Milan fashion week.



VINCENT GARCIA

Girls often wear dresses with high inch heels while the boys wear formal clothing as well, including ties and collared shirts. Everyone is dressed to impress, even though their graduation gowns cover up the outfits. Besides that, the ceremonies last a full eight hours.

Here are some tips for the California State University, Long Beach graduates that will make them not only look good, but feel comfortable as well.

First, we will start off with the guys, who sometimes wear a three-piece suit to graduation. Graduation takes place outside, and with summer approaching, it might be scorching hot.

So, a simple button up shirt would be just fine. No one will notice what type of blazer a graduate is wearing, nor could they if they wanted to, since the gown covers almost all the upper half of the body. Ditch the jacket and wear a simple button up.

If you're interested in standing out, forget the boring old tie and go with a bow tie. The bow tie will stick out since the gown won't cover the neck area. Make sure it isn't too small or large. If it looks like it came from the hood of a brand new car, it might be too big.

Graduates should think twice about ensemble choices for graduation.

The gown leaves the lower half of your legs exposed. Because of this, slacks might be the best way to go. Nothing sticks out more than a guy wearing blue jeans under their gown. It gives off the impression that the graduate doesn't care. Graduating from college is a serious deal, so start dressing like it.

Ladies often dress up for special occasions. Graduation is no different, but some of their decisions are questionable.

I don't care if those heels will make you look taller or if they compliment your dress, ditch them. Instead of heels go with flats. The last thing you want to do is trip in front of your peers. Avoid the potential embarrassment and go with flats. No only are they the safer option, but they also look and feel more comfortable. Be careful on what footwear you decide to wear.

As for attire, it's the perfect time of year to wear sundresses. Don't overdo it by wearing what could be your prom dress. Not only could you trip, but someone could step on your dress and potentially tear it. This is especially the case if they are wearing daggers -- I mean high-heels -- on their feet. Dressing nice but simple will go a long way.

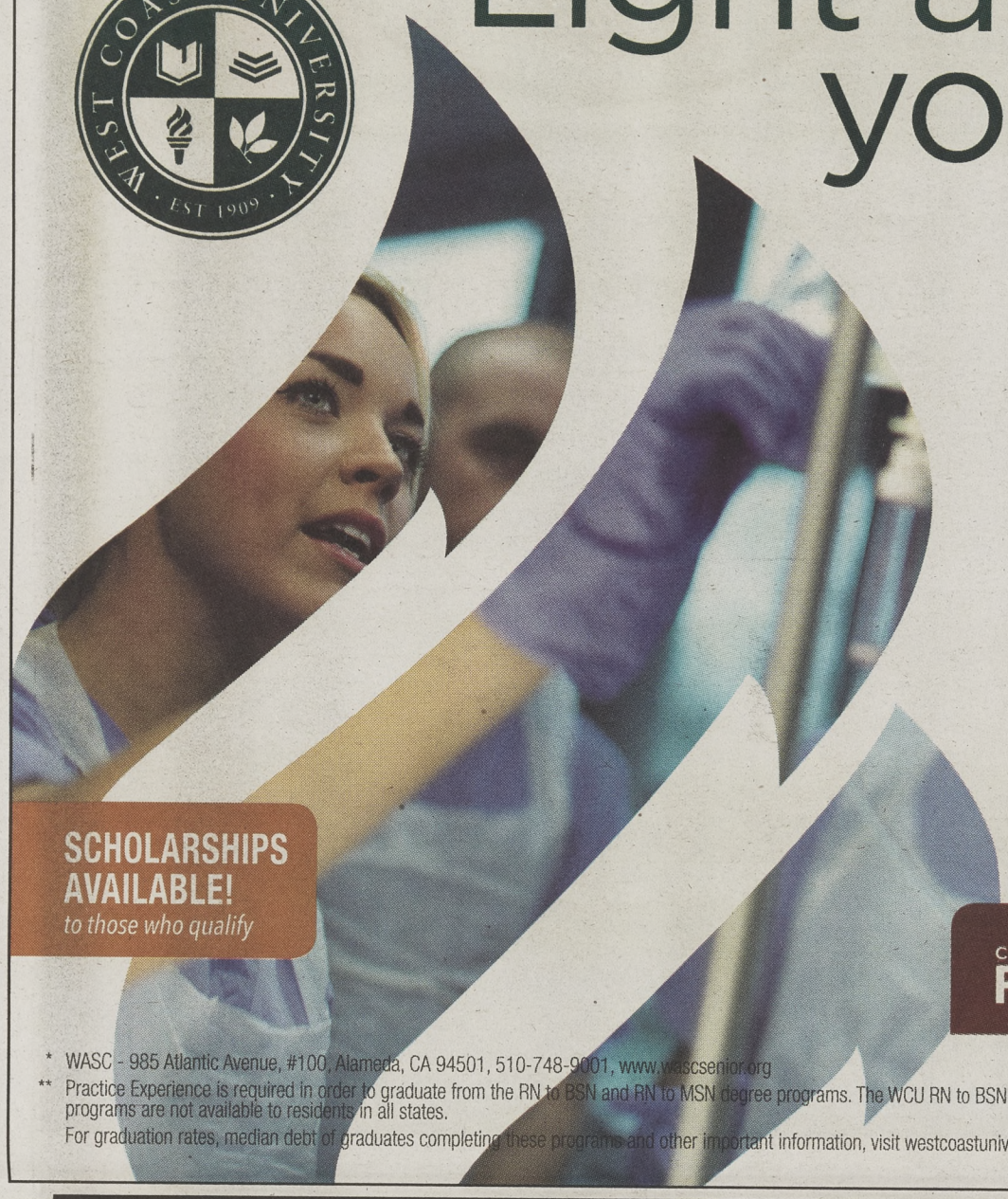
Just a reminder, a typical college graduation ceremony lasts hours. You have to sit through long speeches and wait until each and every person's name is called. Do yourself a favor and keep that in mind while deciding on your outfit.

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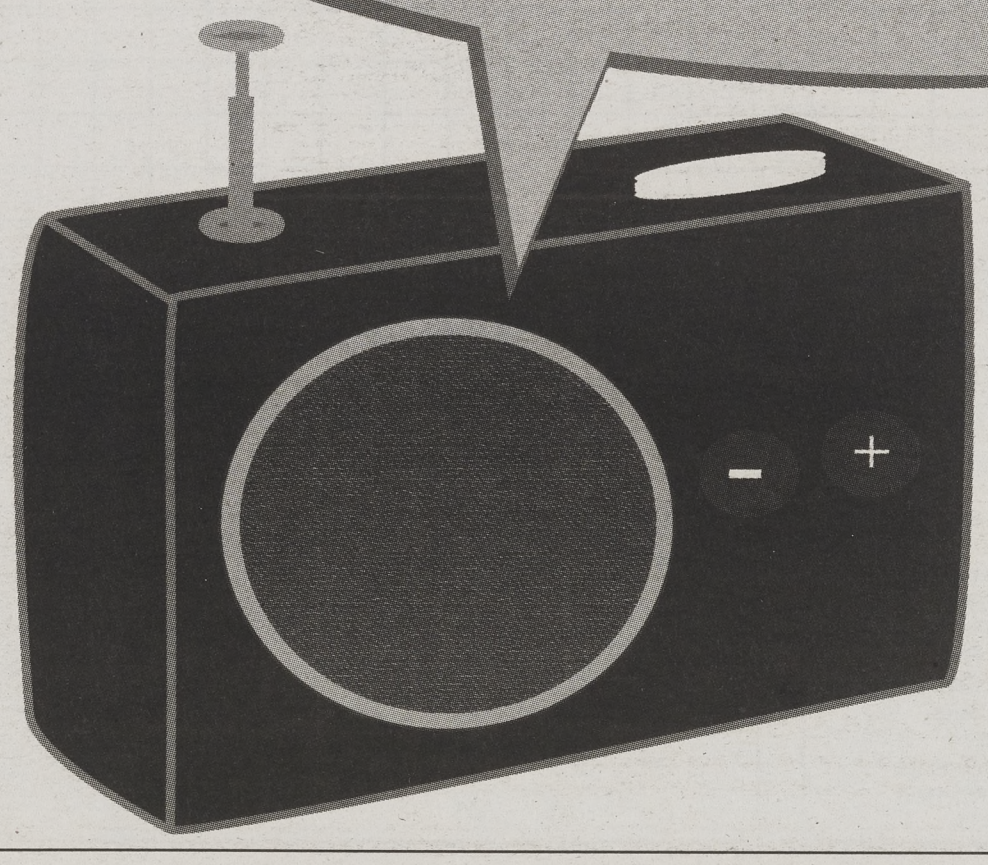
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Women's Tennis



Opposites Attract Victories

Ebba Unden and Hayley Thompson started playing tennis thousands of miles apart, but joined together to become the No. 1 doubles pair at LBSU.

By Greg Diaz
Multimedia Manager

An unlikely partnership came to an end Saturday in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Officials suspended Ebba Unden and Hayley Thompson's match after Virginia Tech secured victories over LBSU's two other doubles teams, sealing the point for the Hokies.

Virginia Tech defeated LBSU 4-2 at the Marks Tennis Center in Los Angeles, putting an end to the team's season.

Differences in on-court personalities aside, Unden and Thompson have risen to the No. 1 doubles pairing on the team.

"Their games complement each other and their personalities complement each other," LBSU head coach Jenny Hilt-Costello said. "Ebba tends to be a little bit more fiery on the court and Haley is a little bit more subdued, but I think Haley feeds off of Ebba's energy."

Unden's energy is hard to miss. The 5 foot 8 inch junior from Stockholm, Sweden is talkative and energetic, constantly working to keep her teammate motivated.

"It definitely helps me a lot on the court," Thompson said. "If I miss a shot she is always like 'Come on. Right back. We got it.'"

Unden's love of tennis began in Sweden at the age of four and continued through high school. Universities in Sweden are not structured to combine athletics and education, said Unden. As graduation neared, she started looking for a school in the U.S. that would allow her to the opportunity for both. The future business major embraced the challenge of playing in a new tennis culture.

"When I came here to America, it was one of the first times where I worked with a purpose in practices," Unden said. "After the match you talk about and evaluate what happened. When I was playing at home, it was so result oriented. I had never had a conversation with a coach after a match. It was all, 'You won. You lost.' You're either happy or you cry, and then you go home."

> **"It's not about forehands and backhands. It's about mental stuff and how you work as a team."**
>
> *-Ebba Unden, LBSU tennis player*

Thompson, who grew up in Irvine, nearly 5,500 miles away from Unden, could not be more different. Thompson, the 5 foot 7 inch sophomore began her athletic career not on the court, but on the ice, playing hockey — a sport that contradicts the unassuming and reserved personality of Thompson.

"I wish we'd see a little bit more of that hockey goon mentality," Hilt-Costello said. "[Thompson's] too nice on the court."

Unden sees Thompson a little differently than Hilt-Costello. Unden described Thompson as more vocal than her coach may realize.

"I have to be very pumped and loud to play good; if not, I'll get sleepy," Unden said. "With Hayley, we give each other energy."

Tennis partnerships can be especially difficult to pin down. Hilt-Costello said that one that is working today might not always be the case, sometimes requiring partnerships to be split. She said there is no formula to finding a successful pairing.

"It's nothing magical," Hilt-Costello said. "It is really just a matter of trial and error with a lot of different matchups and then you see which ones work."

She said what may not seem like a perfect fit at first can show signs of promise. That was how Unden described the first time that she partnered with Thompson near the end of last semester.

"The first match that we played together was such an epic fail," Unden said. "I kind of really screwed it up on a couple of points. But I still felt like we had good potential and that our games could fit each other."

Hilt-Costello also saw potential in those early matches, and she kept the two players together through the rest of the season. That intuition came to fruition in the finals of the Big West tournament; both women called the 8-2 victory over UC Santa Barbara's No. 1 doubles team the best they had played all season.

"Obviously everyone at this level can play groundstrokes," Unden said. "It's not about forehands and backhands. It's about mental stuff and how you work as a team."

Three days before the Long Beach State women's tennis team headed into the NCAA tournament, Unden let out a yell with almost every swing of her racket. Thompson released a small sigh each time her racket connected with the little green ball. After hitting a ball off course, Unden looked up toward the sky, as if to chastise the tennis gods, while Thompson turned down toward her feet, as if to dive into herself for an answer that only she had.

Little did they know that they would be left to think about the potential of that suspended match, reflecting on how far they had come since that first match and hoping the chemistry they developed would return when the new season arrives.

LBSU Sports Calendar

Tuesday, May 12

Baseball
Vs. San Diego
Blair Field
6 p.m.

Friday, May 15

Track
Big West Championships
Riverside
All day

Baseball
Vs. UC Davis
Blair Field

Saturday, May 16

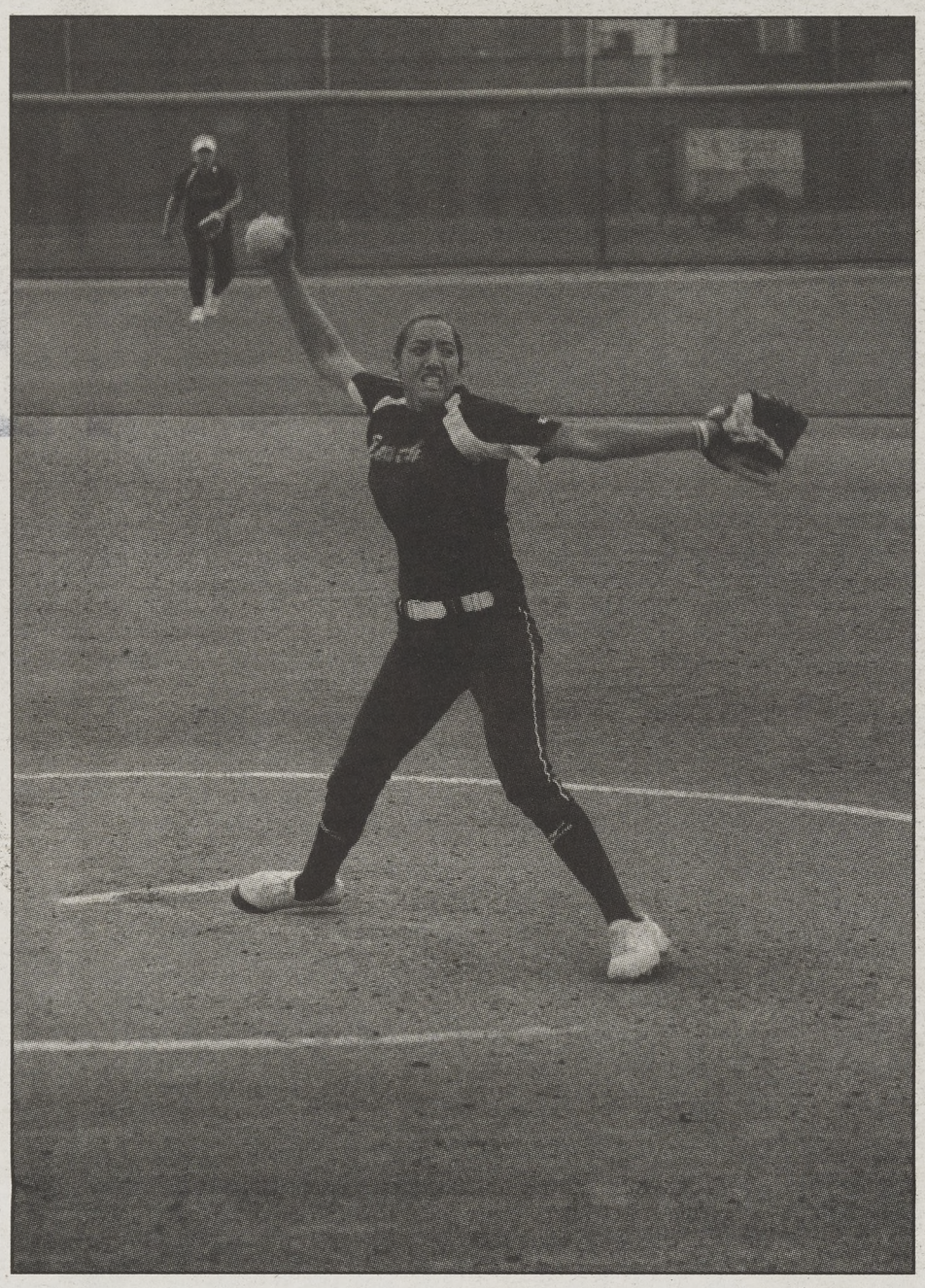
Track
Big West Championships
Riverside
All day

Baseball
Vs. UC Davis
Blair Field

Sunday, May 17

Baseball
Vs. UC Davis
Blair Field
1 p.m.

Softball



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

LBSU finished second in the Big West, one game behind Cal State Northridge. The 49ers swept the final six games of the season to finish 13-6 in the conference.

49ers sweep not enough for Big West title

LBSU ended the season on a six-game win streak, but fell just short of catching CSUN in the Big West.

By Josh Barajas
Staff Writer

The Long Beach State softball team ended its season on a six-game win streak after sweeping UC Santa Barbara at the 49er Softball Complex over the weekend.

The 49ers (28-24, 13-6) overpowered the Gauchos (19-35, 6-15) in all three games to clinch second place in the Big West. Kim Sowder, who nabbed her 300th win as head coach of the 49ers on Saturday, said she was excited by the way her team closed out the season.

"Our goal in this series was to stay consistent and not let up because sometimes, you can relax a little," Sowder said.

In Friday's double-header, the 49ers scored in 10 of the combined 12 innings between both games.

Five LBSU hitters notched two hits each in an 8-2 victory in game one. Sophomore right-hander Christina Clermont tossed her tenth complete game in a row and had four strikeouts on her way to a league-leading 13-1 record.

In game two, senior shortstop Kimbrough, junior infielder Darian Tautalafua, sophomore catcher Lauren Lombardi and freshman outfielder Hannah Cookson each went 3-4 in a 10-2 stomping of the Gauchos.

Tautalafua hit her 10th home run of the season in the sixth inning. The solo shot moved her past current assistant coach Jessica White for most RBIs in school history with 116.

"To even be mentioned in the same category as Jessica is an honor," Tautalafua said. "She told me that when I [broke the RBI record], I had to point at her, so I did."

Senior right-hander Amanda Hansen made her final start as a 49er in game two. After giving up two runs in the first, Hansen settled in and pitched five scoreless innings to end her career on a positive note.

"It was a little nerve wracking and obviously that showed in the first inning," Hansen said. "But I just worked hard for the team because I knew this would probably be my last start. I just gave it everything that I had."

Game three on Saturday was a much closer affair than the first two matchups. Santa Barbara got on the board first with a towering three-run home run from Shelby Wisdom in the fourth inning to go up 3-0.

With UCSB up 4-2 in the bottom of the fifth, Tautalafua stepped up to the plate with two runners on and crushed a three-run shot of her own to put the 49ers up 5-4. Clermont closed the Gauchos out for her 19th complete game of the season.

LBSU's strong finish puts them in the conversation for an at-large bid for the NCAA Regionals. Sowder said her team would be ready if they get in.

"I would love to get into the postseason, obviously," Sowder said. "And I think if we did, we'd do real well. The way Christina [Clermont] is pitching, and the way we're playing right now, I think we can compete with anybody in the country."

Baseball

Hutting's homers not enough in Indiana

The Dirtbags' offense failed to overcome Hoosiers in the series finale.

By Oscar Terrones
Sports Editor

An 8-5 defeat to Indiana in Bloomington on Sunday sealed another road series loss for the Long Beach State baseball team.

The Dirtbags (25-22, 8-10) slugged seven home runs in the three-game series. Junior catcher Eric Hutting hit three against the Hoosiers (28-20, 9-10), including two on Sunday. The homers were Hutting's third and fourth of the season.

Hutting joined freshman first baseman Luke Rasmussen in the multi-homer category; Rasmussen hit a pair in the Dirtbags' 12-5 win on Friday.

Indiana won games one and two after LBSU took the series opener. The Hoosiers scored four runs against Dirtbags right-hander Chris Mathewson in Saturday's 7-2 win. Sophomore outfielder Craig Dedelow went 2-4, including his fourth home run of the season.

Junior right-hander Scott Effross pitched four shutout innings of relief, striking out five Dirtbags while only allowing a hit.

The Hoosiers' offense success against LBSU's pitching continued in Sunday's 8-5 win. Head coach Troy Buckley pulled starter Tanner Brown in the fifth after the right-hander gave up three earned runs on four hits.

The Dirtbags will return to Blair Field on Tuesday for their final home series of the season. LBSU will host San Diego before taking UC Davis for a three-game series starting on Friday at 6 p.m.

Big West Baseball Standings

	Big West Games			All Games					
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.	H	A
UC Irvine	13	5	.722	31	17	0	.646	19-6	12-11
Cal State Fullerton	13	5	.722	28	21	0	.571	15-8	12-11
UC Santa Barbara	12	6	.667	35	13	0	.724	23-7-1	12-6
Hawaii	12	9	.571	21	26	0	.447	13-14	7-10
Cal Poly	10	8	.556	23	25	0	.479	14-11	9-14
Long Beach State	8	10	.444	25	22	0	.532	18-9	7-13
UC Davis	7	11	.389	28	21	0	.570	14-8	14-13-1
CSUN	7	14	.333	28	22	1	.560	18-8	10-14
UC Riverside	2	16	.111	13	35	0	.271	8-17	5-18

Big West Softball Standings

	Big West Games			All Games					
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.	H	A
CSUN	16	5	.762	41	15	0	.732	15-5	15-5
Long Beach State	15	6	.714	28	24	0	.538	15-8	6-4
Hawaii	13	8	.619	32	22	0	.593	22-17	6-3
Cal State Fullerton	12	9	.571	34	22	0	.607	21-9	6-8
UC Riverside	11	10	.524	39	17	0	.696	22-5	4-8
UC Davis	6	15	.286	18	31	0	.367	6-7	5-16
UC Santa Barbara	6	15	.286	19	35	0	.352	8-13	4-8
Cal Poly	5	16	.238	22	33	0	.400	8-9	4-13

LBSU Athletics

#49ERS ON LINE

By Kayce Contatore
Staff Writer

@the beginning, w/Myspace, and all the way_to #49erNow w/Instagram & Snapchat, social.media has taken over.

Fieldhouse Media Group conducted its third social media study for college athletes in 2015. The study found that 73 percent have a Twitter, 94 percent have a Facebook, 81 percent have an Instagram and 89 percent have Snapchat.

Roger Kirk, assistant athletic director for media relations, said that Long Beach State doesn't have strict policies for athletes when it comes to social media.

"The main thing we tell our student athletes is anything they put on social media is public," Kirk said. "If it's something you wouldn't want someone to hear, don't put it on Twitter, don't put it on Facebook."

The National Collegiate Athlete Association has general policies when it comes to student athletes and what they can or cannot post on social media. The most common policy is that students are not allowed to post anything that may be construed as an endorsement to a specific company or brand on social media.

LBSU sophomore softball infielder Lauren Lombardi said that she uses social media to stay up to date with friends and family she does not get to see on a daily basis.

"I'm always careful," Lombardi said. "I don't use foul language. If I can't let my parents see it, [then] I don't want it on social media."

Instagram and Twitter are Lombardi's favorite social media sites. Fieldhouse Media Group found that so far in 2015, Instagram has been the highest used social media network among the athletes at 33 percent, with Facebook coming in second at 29 percent.

Kirk said LBSU has not had to deal with many social media problems with the athletes, but that the punishment for violating rules for each sport varies depending on the amount of exposure.

"As long as you self report [the incident] right away, it usually isn't an issue," Kirk said. "Within the sports, some sports might do an ESPN style Twitter suspension, other sports might just say, 'Hey, knock it off.'"

For many college athletes, social media can be a place for both praise and hateful comments. Kirk said the men's basketball team deals with the highest level of scrutiny due to the regular broadcast of its games and high media exposure.

"Men's basketball deals with [trash talking] the most," Kirk said. "To be honest, it's usually not very funny or clever. [People say] 'Mike Caffey you suck,' and things like that. Most of the time, it is usually positive stuff."

Instagram has been the most-used social media site in 2015, according to Fieldhouse Media Group.





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